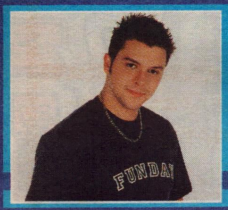
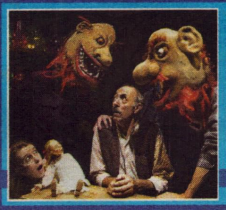
No 648 February 10, 2002

THE FUNDAY TIMES



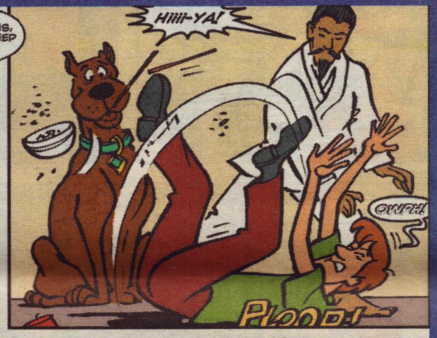
Meet Johnny
Funday introduces the new-look Hear'Say, including Johnny Shentall
Page 2



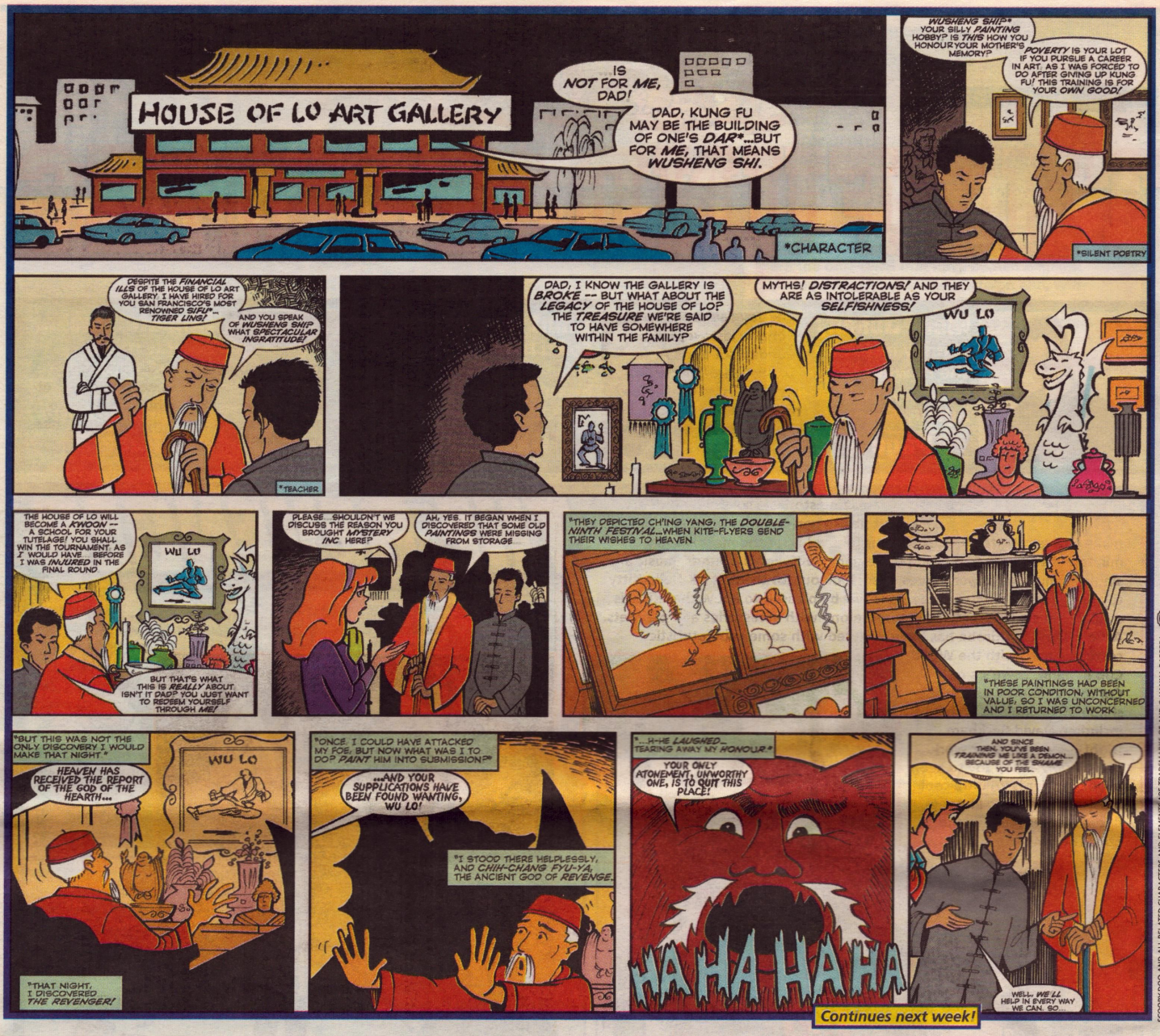
Giant opening
Roald Dahl's BFG is treading the boards to celebrate his 20th anniversary
Page 3

Monster maker
Funday has an exclusive interview with Monsters, Inc. director Pete Docter
Page 5

SCOOBY-DOO! in THE REVENGER



More inside



SCOOBY DOO AND ALL RELATED CHARACTERS AND ELEMENTS ARE TRADEMARKS OF AND © HANNA-BARBERA (S02)

HERE'S ... JOHNNY!

Johnny with his former Boom! bandmates – Shakti, Nick, Rachael, Shaun and Vicky

Funday was invited to meet Hear'Say this week, as the band unveiled its new line-up – and we were happy to discover that Myleene, Danny, Noel and Suzanne had selected 23-year-old Johnny Shentall as their new bandmate.

Funday readers will remember Johnny from his days in Boom!, the funky pop band who scored a top-20 hit with their debut single, Falling, and wowed audiences all over the UK with their energetic live performances.

Johnny also has a famous girlfriend – Steps star Lisa Scott-Lee – although the couple rarely appear in public together, preferring to keep their relationship out of the limelight.

But Johnny's not a Boom! boy anymore, he's now a high-profile Hear'Say hunk – and his new bandmates were keen to welcome him to the fold.

Suzanne told us: "Johnny's an all-rounder, he looks right, he dances great, he sings well and he's perfect for the band."

When asked why they replaced a girl with a boy, Myleene said: "We wanted to keep the doors open, and talent speaks for itself."

Johnny was clearly overcome by all the attention, but chuffed that he had made it through the gruelling auditions. "I didn't expect to get this far," he told us. "I just did my best and couldn't believe it when I made it. I think Hear'Say are great – they make people smile and I hope we can carry on doing that."

It seems the departure of Kym Marsh, who left her Popstars pals in the lurch last month when she dumped them to follow a solo career, won't dent the popularity of Hear'Say. The band looks better than ever!

PICTURES: JAMIE HUGHES PA/MYUNG JUNG KIM

FUNDAY NEWS

Toy stories

The Toy Fair took place in London last week and Funday got a sneak preview around the fun-filled stalls, to see all the new playthings to look out for in 2002. Among the best are Wedgies and Superplexus, from Tiger Electronics. Wedgies is a mad-looking boy who tells amazing stories – some of which are blatant fibs. When he lies, tug on his pants to make him tell the truth! Superplexus [above] is for the mechanically-minded. It's a tricky hands-on puzzle game with lights, sounds, music and single or multiple player modes. Also, look out for the first UK Hello Kitty toy range, available from May. Fans will be pleased to know that Kitty is available in six different 5cm figures, along with accessories and play-sets. Action Man's wardrobe has been updated with some cool futuristic costumes and, with the World Cup in mind, there's a new Corinthian figures set in the shape of 18 England stars – including David Beckham [right] – and 18 other world stars. Another top toy to keep a look out for is an ultra-cool musical Hong Kong Phooey figure and his feline friend Spot The Cat!

Cute chameleon

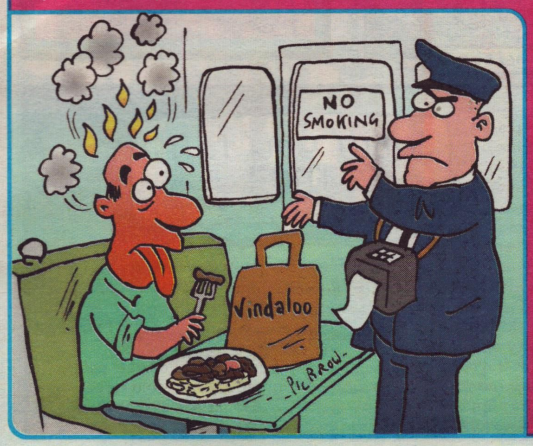
A worker at the Sunshine International Aquarium, in Tokyo, Japan, is holding this baby pygmy leaf chameleon, one of the smallest species of chameleon in the world. It's 3cm long and weighs 3g but can grow to approximately 5cm. Like most other chameleons, the pygmy leaf comes from Madagascar – which is also home to the smallest species in the world, the brookesia minima.

Big production

A production of Roald Dahl's The BFG [or Big Friendly Giant] opens this week at London's Sadler's Wells theatre – marking the 20th anniversary of the book's first publication in 1982. The play tells the story of how the BFG takes orphan Sophie to Giant Country, where she avoids being guzzled like a "whiffswhiddle" by scary giants – including Fleshlumpeater and the Bonecruncher! The fantastic story has been adapted for the stage by the playwright David Wood and stars Anthony Pedley as the BFG. Anthony has played the part before and looks remarkably like the character drawn by the book's famous illustrator, Quentin Blake. For more information on this fantastic version of the BFG, call 020 7863 8000 or go to www.sadlerswells.com

Curry in a hurry

When the buffet car on an express train from Edinburgh to London ran out of food, passenger Deke Primo was determined not to go hungry. The peckish passenger called Talking Pages to get phone numbers for curry houses in the Peterborough area, where the train was due to stop next. One restaurant agreed to meet the train with some tasty tikkas for Deke and his daughter Jodi. "From then on it was like a military operation," explains Deke. "I had to tell the restaurant the exact time we were due to arrive in Peterborough, the platform number and that we were in Coach H." When the train rolled into the station, a waiter delivered Deke's supper of two tikka masalas, pilau rice, onion bhajis and naan bread.



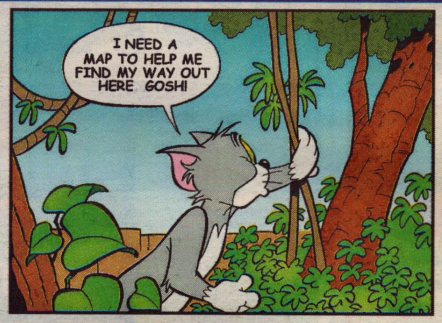
Time hunt

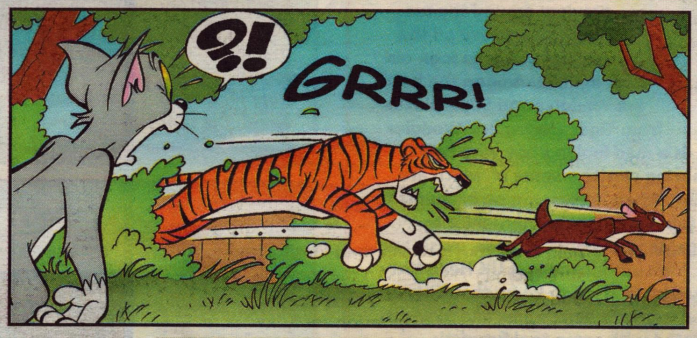
The London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre at Mortimer Wheeler House, north London, opens its doors to the public this weekend – uncovering a treasure trove of historical artefacts. The centre, named after famous archaeologist Sir Mortimer Wheeler, has 10km of shelving stacked with records and finds from more than 4,000 London excavations, making it Europe's largest archaeological archive. Among the 120,000 boxes of archaeological treasures are Roman pomegranate seeds, Saxon jewellery and Tudor tankards. There are even 7,000 human skulls on show – one of which could have been found near you! For more info, go to www.museumoflondon.org.uk or call the centre on 020 7566 9317 to make an appointment.

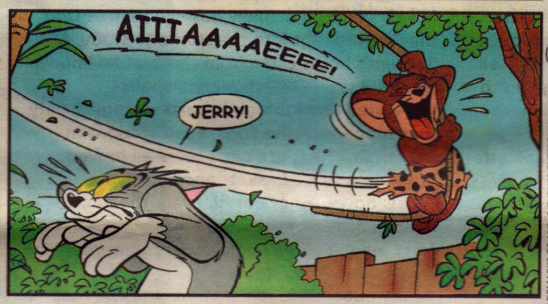
PICTURES: PA/JOHNNY GREEN, EPA/AFP/YOSHIKAZU TSUNO, DEE CONWAY, ©MUSEUM OF LONDON

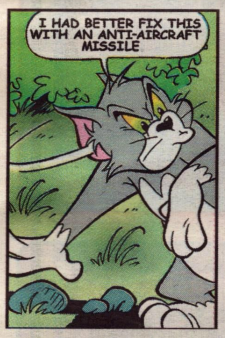
THE JUNGLE

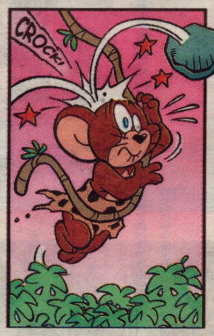
TOM and JERRY











Continues next week!

TOM AND JERRY AND ALL RELATED CHARACTERS AND ELEMENTS ARE TRADEMARKS OF AND © TURNER ENTERTAINMENT CO. (S02)

DAGSY DOG

Woof, woof! Got any pet problems? Then get in touch with me at the address below!

My sister's got a hamster, and I want one too. Can I keep two females hamsters in one cage?
Faye Barcoe, 8, Denton

It is very unlikely that you would be able to keep two female hamsters together, as hamsters tend to be solitary animals. If they are confined in the same cage they may fight. They can be quite aggressive, and sometimes these fights can be fatal. On rare occasions, two sisters that have been brought up together may tolerate one another, but it is probably not worth the risk. Hamsters do not get "lonely" on their own, as long as you give them lots of handling, attention and change their environment from time to time.

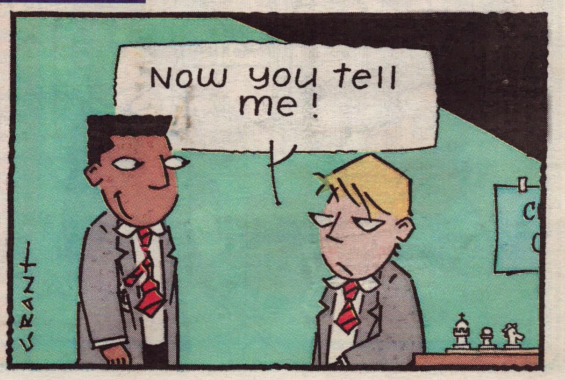
Advice by Blue Cross vet Mark Bossley

If you have a question for me or you want to send in a cool fact, write to:
The Funday Times, Dagsy Dog, PO Box 495, London E98 1ST
You can now e-mail your pet problems to
dagsy.dog@sunday-times.co.uk

The Blue Cross, one of Britain's oldest animal welfare charities, has four animal hospitals, 11 adoption centres, and two equine centres. Last year, the charity found homes for 8,000 animals and treated more than 60,000 pets at its hospitals.

ILLUSTRATIONS: PAUL CEMMICK

Jarvis

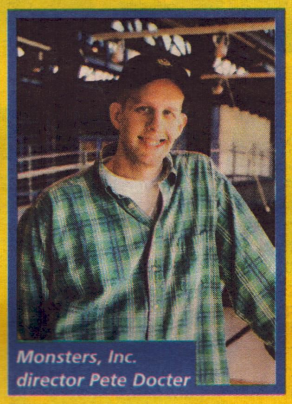


©KNIGHT FEATURES

Dagsy will be taking a break soon – so if you've got a pet question, send it today!

MAKING MONSTERS!

Monsters, Inc. director Pete Docter tells Dave Coombs about the challenge of creating this year's hottest animated movie



Monsters, Inc. director Pete Docter

Hi Pete, how long did it take to make Monsters, Inc.?
I started on the film when I came up with the original idea, about five years ago, which is a very long time!

Is the film based on your own childhood fears?
Oh yes. And the opening scare, when the kid's in bed and there's a tentacle that turns out to be a shirt – that was directly from my life.

Does the computer animation process affect the way you write a storyline?
It does, in that we try to fit the subject matter around the strengths of computer animation. But when we're actually writing the story itself we don't even think about how we're going to animate it because then we'd stop thinking about the story.

What kind of things are more tricky to animate realistically with computers?
The general rule of thumb is that the more organic something is, the harder it will be to animate. Something like a shirt is very hard because it has lots of complex wrinkles and folds that move in different ways.

Sulley has more than three million hairs – didn't making him that fluffy give you lots more work to do?
There's a kind of dial that you can turn up and down for the amount of hair. And I didn't know how many there were, I just knew when he looked good. Initially, he had even more hair but it was very complex and took too long to produce each frame. But he still looks great, and during close-ups on Sullivan's face, we increased the number of hairs so you don't see skin underneath.

How did the animators cope with Sulley being so complex?
The animators are like actors in this equation – they create the amazing performances, expressions and gestures. And the last thing I wanted them to worry about was the three million hairs, because that's just technical stuff. So, the animators worked with a bald version of Sullivan to work out the performance – he just appeared naked.

When did he grow his furry coat?
Once I had finalised the animation, he was sent to the simulation department, which grows the hair. They trim it to the right length, and make sure the hair responds to the movement of the body.

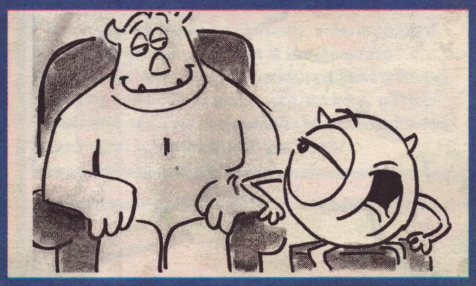
How did you get inspiration for Mike?
Mike's skin was actually based on a tree frog that we brought into the studio to study. And Sullivan's horns came from those of an impala.

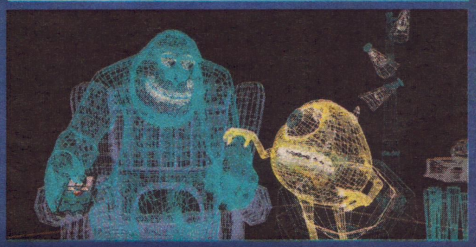
How did you research Monstropolis?
We visited an automobile parts storage facility that supplies all the Ford repair stations in California. The spare parts were all moved around on these baskets and conveyors, and that is how we got our ideas for the doors moving around.

How many people operate the computers that created Monsters, Inc.?
I'd say about 300. The way we work at Pixar is that everybody has a specific task. So, one team builds props, another the sets, another articulates the characters, while others do the surfaces of things, like fabric. Plus, we try very hard to give everything in the film a history, such as using scratches and stains, to make things look less fake.

HAIRY STUFF!

Five years ago, Pete's story was presented in pencil sketch format. This was transformed by Pixar's animators into the detailed characters of the movie, although they actually created a bald version of Sulley! His 3.2m hairs were added at the very end.





PICTURES: ©DISNEY ENTERPRISES, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. ©DISNEY/PIXAR. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Did you think Monsters, Inc. was worth the effort? Write in and tell us!

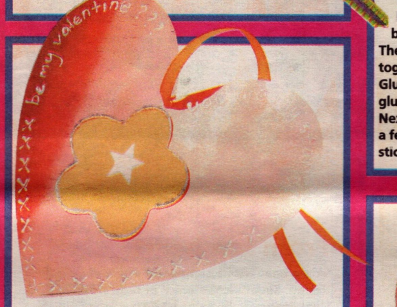
SEALED WITH A KISS

It's Valentine's Day on Thursday. Funday has some crafty ideas on how to make something special for that significant someone!

Forget slushy Valentine cards, be inspired by our fab hearty ideas to make your own cool cards and secret messages that really will be original. We used heart, flower, arrow and dot-shaped Post-it Notes instead of trying to cut shapes out of paper [you know they always turn out wonkey!].
They are also great for decorating Valentine discos, friends' desks – or your bedroom.
Post-it Notes come in so many lovely colours – you'll have fun choosing your favourites.

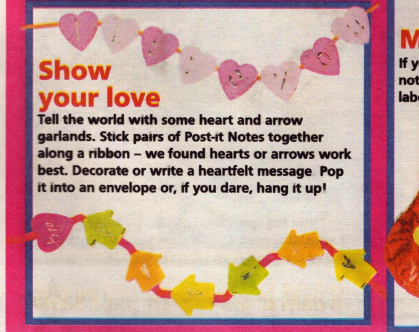
Say it with flowers!

Create your own bunch of flowers. Just cut six circle or flower Post-it Notes around the edge to form petals. Double them up for great effect. Cut a contrasting small circle from the sticky part of another Post-it and stick into the centre. Next, pierce a hole through the centre of the flower and thread a pipe cleaner through, bending the top over to secure. Finally, place two hearts onto the stem and write your special message – or decorate with sticky stars or glitter.



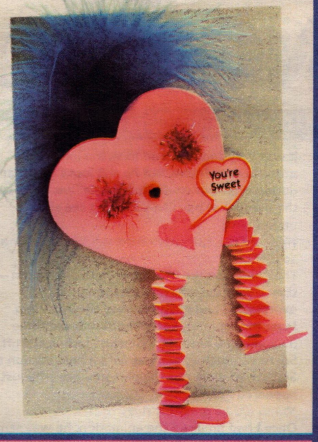
Heart of gold

A card can really shine – with a bit of sparkling silver or gold. Begin by carefully cutting a heart shape from some metallic card. Decorate a flower Post-it Note and stick into the centre of the card. Then, write a loving message around the edge with a glue pen. Pierce a hole at the top and thread ribbon through – ready to tie onto that special someone's bag when they're not looking.



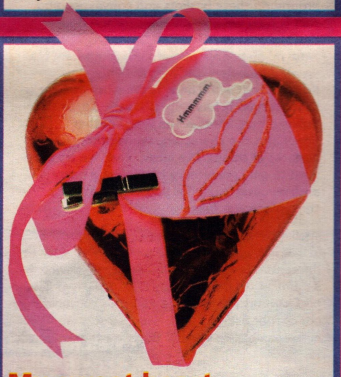
Show your love

Tell the world with some heart and arrow garlands. Stick pairs of Post-it Notes together along a ribbon – we found hearts or arrows work best. Decorate or write a heartfelt message. Pop it into an envelope or, if you dare, hang it up!



You move me

Make someone jump for joy with this dancing heart creation. To start, make the legs by cutting two contrasting strips of paper. Then place at right angles and glue ends together, folding one over the other till complete. Glue ends to secure. Make another leg and glue heart feet onto both. Next, decorate a heart Post-it Note, glue legs and a feather to the back and stick it all to a card with sticky fixers for a 3-D effect.



My sweet heart

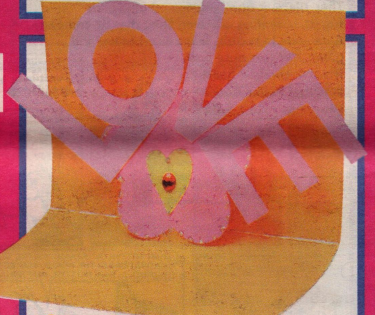
If your special someone has a sweet-tooth, why not decorate a chocolate heart or lolly? Just make labels out of Post-it Notes and decorate with stickers. Tie or stick onto a chocolate lolly or heart for a yummy Valentine present.

Sit here

Make your Valentine party special with decorated place settings. Fold a piece of card in half. Next, glue a decorated Note on and write names or messages – Mum, Dad, Myleene, Noel – one for all your family and friends.

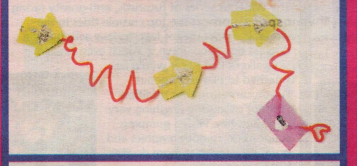
Spring a surprise

If you are feeling daring – and particularly inspired – try this fold out card. Begin by folding a bright-coloured card in half and cut the edge into pointed shapes. Continue by taking two heart Post-its, stick them together and stick at points either side of the centre fold of the card, so that it stands up. Then decorate the card.



I love it!

Spell it out with this love card! To start, fold a card in half. Then, cut two parallel slits 2.5cm wide in the centre. Fold card inside out so you have a 3-D box in the centre of the card. Stick two flower Post-it Notes onto the box and cut your message out of contrasting Notes. Finish by sticking message onto flower and decorate your own way.



Follow the arrow

Have a bit of fun with this wacky way of telling someone you care. Just twist wire or pipe cleaners. Add decorated glitter arrow Post-it Notes. Then, finish with an envelope, or make one from a square Post-it Note. Pop your love message inside.

Seal the deal

Once you've made your crafty Valentine card, make an envelope to put it in! Decorate envelopes with brightly coloured Post-it Notes, cutting out little hearts – use stickers, glitter, glue and sequins. Remember to write who the card is for – but not who it's from!

From the heart

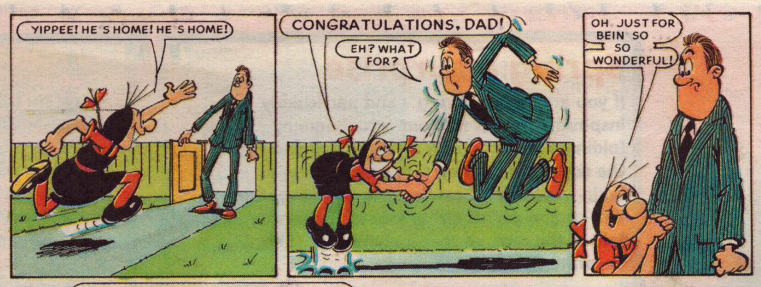
Skip a beat with a simple but effective heart design. Simply fold a piece of red card in half. Next, decorate three heart Post-it Notes with glitter and jewels. Stick hearts to one side of card and write a message inside.

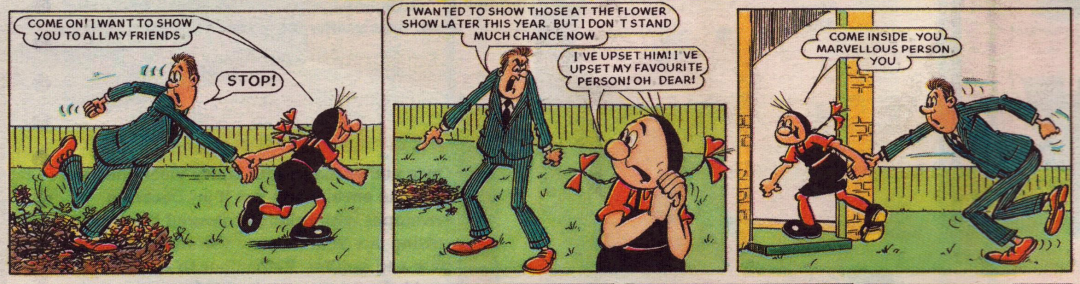
The big question is, will you tell your special someone you sent your Valentine's Day creation – or will you keep it a secret?

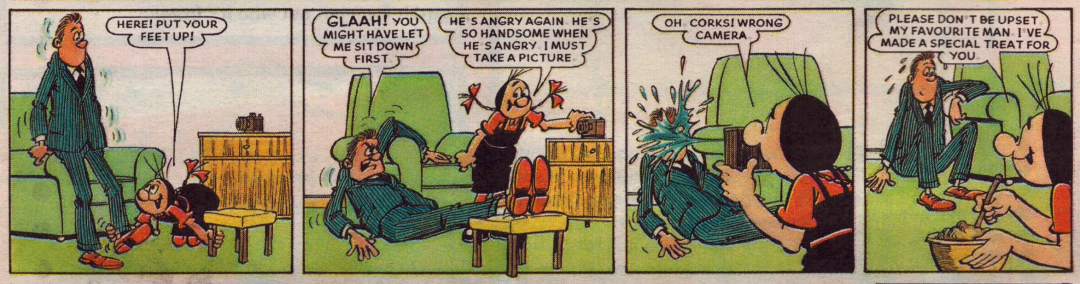
THE FUNDAY TIMES

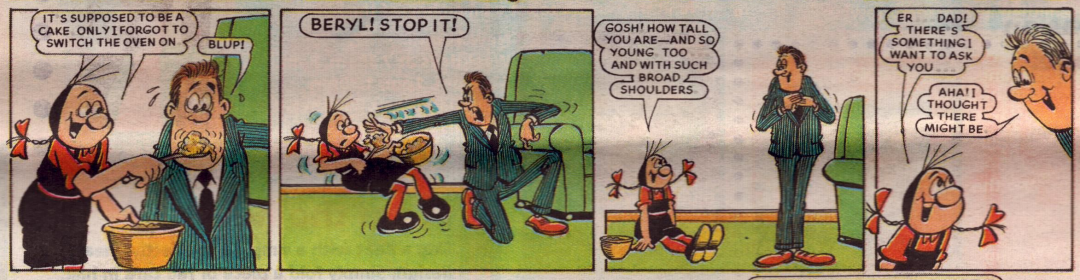
BERYL the PERIL

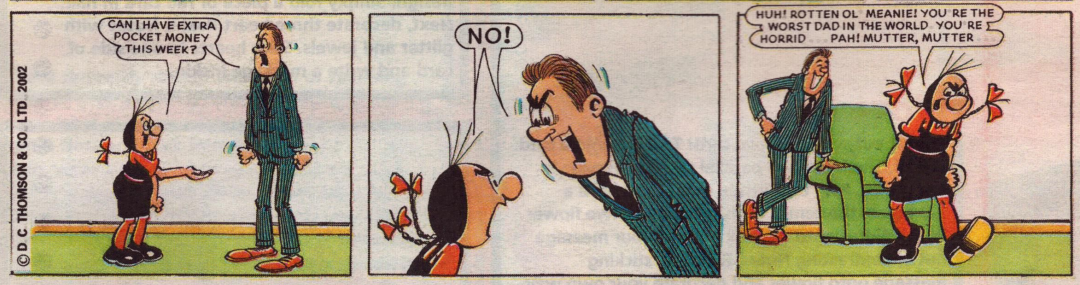
BERYL THE PERIL APPEARS EVERY WEEK IN The DANDY





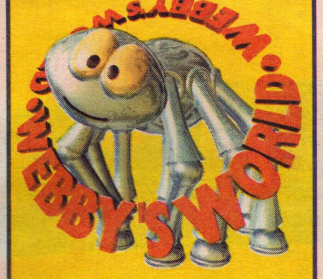






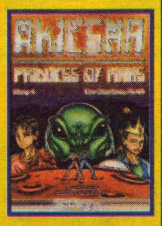
© D C THOMSON & CO. LTD. 2002

WEBBY'S WORLD



www.StoryPlus.com

Check out original stories online with this new reading website. Try out one of the six free stories and, if they whet the appetite, you can become a member, buy stories to download and then print them out. All the stories have been specially written, just type in your age range, favourite genre and see which tale is for you.



www.weetabix.co.uk/readybrekideez

Make sure everyone knows your name with personalised Ideez cards from Ready Brek. Just collect four tokens from special packets, send a cheque for £2.50 and then order your cool cards from this website. There are five funky designs to choose from [see below] and you get 50 cool cards to give to all your mates!

If you are a webhead and have discovered a great site, or have created one of your own, spin me a mail and tell me all about it on webby@sunday-times.co.uk

FRESH!

THE GHOST BEHIND THE WALL
Melvin Burgess ★★★★★

If you have missed out on this fantastic ghost story, now's the chance to catch it in paperback. Don't expect scary thrills, though, this is an absorbing and touching tale involving three central characters – schoolboy David, the elderly Mr Alveston and a ghost that lurks in a ventilation shaft. The Ghost Behind The Wall is an insightful story about growing old and taking responsibility – and it shows you don't need wizards to create a great story.

BOOK

WIPEOUT FUSION ★★★★★

The Wipeout series of futuristic, anti-gravity racing games is amongst the top console titles in the world. It always means fast, furious action and a dog-eat-dog showdown in which even Anakin Skywalker's Pod Racer would be smashed to pieces. Wipeout Fusion carries on that tradition without producing anything very new. But, hey, with a pumping soundtrack, smooth graphics and great effects, what more do you want? Race ace!

PLAYSTATION 2

VAMPIRE VIGILANTES 1: INVASION OF THE SAUSAGE SNATCHERS Michael Cox ★★★★★

While Buffy and Angel may take their vampiring ways a touch too seriously, this new madcap series takes the bloodsucking business with a pinch of garlic! The vampire bashing heroes are Claire and Jason, who suspect all is not as it seems in their dull town of Chumley-by-Eck when the neck-loving Bruno and Hildegard Blodvat enter town. Quirky, fun and frivolous, this is a lightweight read to keep you chuckling until dawn.

BOOK

Got a favourite website? Tell Webby all about it – funday.times@sunday-times.co.uk

FUNDAY

BUZZ!

WATCH OUT THIS WEEK!

WHAT'S UP?

Digital handsets at the ready! There's a new TV channel launching tomorrow – called CBBC. It's a new digital station for 6- to 13-year-olds from the BBC that will broadcast from 7am to 7pm, every day.

"Won't that just mean sitting through a load of old repeats?" we hear you ask. And we wondered that too, but Buzz! has taken a look behind the scenes at CBBC and it's actually going to broadcast a mix of popular old shows and new programmes, too.

One of the big things to look out for is Xchange. The channel's live magazine show will go out three times a day, five days a week. More than 1,000 episodes are to be made, making it the largest single commission for any programme in CBBC history. The show will be presented by Angellica Bell, Linsey France, Anna Kumblé [remember Lolly, anyone?], Tony Craig, Jez Edwards, Joe Challands and Abbie Eastwood.

While, on Sunday mornings, Fearne Cotton and Reggie Yates will be presenting Smile, a new entertainment show. It even features a web radio service so that viewers can vote for the single they'd most like to hear.

And when Sunday evenings turn into homework hell, CBBC has a nifty solution. The channel will join Radio 1 for The Official UK Top 40, hosted by Blue Peter presenter Konnie Huq and Adrian Dickinson. So, you'll be able to watch the number one video as soon as the new chart is announced.

The channel can also help you out with your school work too – because there will also be a whole load of educational programmes shown throughout term-time.

So, clickers at the ready – CBBC starts transmitting at 7am tomorrow!

Make an Xchange [from left]: Tony, Abbie, Jez, Angellica, Anna, Joe and Linsey

PRESENTING ... LINSEY FRANCE

Funday nabbed a chat with Linsey France to talk about her new role as an Xchange presenter

Hi Linsey, how did you get the job?

Well, last year, I beat 6,000 girls in a competition to co-present with Richard Blackwood on MTV. I've been doing that job for five months and I got the CBBC job off the back of that.

What's it like working for the BBC?

Fantastic. I've always said that I'd like to present Blue Peter but I reckon Xchange is better than that. My dad is really, really pleased for me and I want to make him proud.

Are you comfortable with live TV?

I'm used to it and it's really exciting. They tell us not to cover up if we go wrong, just to smile and get on with it. I like that!

What's Xchange going to be like?

It's brilliant. There are loads of games, band interviews and lots more excitement. It'll be the best thing on TV. The set is wicked too. It's like a little mini-flat. In fact, I could live there – it's really cosy and there's even a bed.

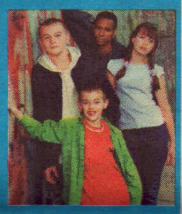
How well do you get on with the other presenters?

Brilliantly, we've all really hit it off. They all tell me I talk too much, though. But I think it's good to gab the legs off – it's needed in this profession!

WHAT TO WATCH ON THE NEW CBBC

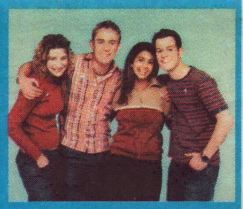
Xchange
Weekdays at 7am, 12noon, 5.35pm
This daily show has a little bit of everything from music to games via fashion. The first show bursts onto screens with a live performance from S Club 7.

Stitch Up!
Weekdays at 4.05pm
Four kooky kids [right] join stand-up comedians and get behind the camera to set up members of the public.



Newsround
Weekdays at 7.30am, 8am, 12.30pm, 1pm, 1.30pm
Alongside the six daily news bulletins is the new entertainment programme, Newsround Lite, which provides news from the world of TV, music and film.

Blue Peter Unleashed
Monday and Friday at 8.35am, 1.35pm, 4.35pm
The team [right] test out challenging extreme sports and meet up-and-coming sports stars.



Blue Peter Flies The World
Wednesday at 8.35am
This time the Blue Peter four go globetrotting to show you lots of amazing bits of the world – this week it's Tanzania, in Africa.

The Saturday Show Extra
Saturdays at 9am
Choose between the Saturday Show on BBC1, and The Saturday Show Extra, where you can watch the guests as they leave the studio. Or flick between the two all morning!

Smile
Sundays at 9am
An interactive show with Fearne Cotton [right] and three hours of pop, celebrity guests, comps and comedy.

The Official UK Top 40 On CBBC
Sundays at 6pm
As well as revealing the new number-one single as it happens, Konnie Huq and Adrian Dickinson [left] will be heading backstage at the hottest gigs and showbiz parties ... just for you!

HOT!

Single
TV

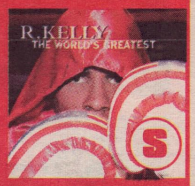
WHAT ABOUT US? Brandy ★★★★★

Brandy's back – and she's never sounded better. Once again, the soulful singer has teamed up with Rodney Jerkins, and the producer known as Darkchild has woven his magic across the mixing desk. Not that Brandy's ever turned out a slack track, but What About Us? is an irresistible single and certainly one of her finest releases. Brandy's voice has been computer tweaked – there are sound effects strewn everywhere, and the backing track is best described as a scramble of sound. But if it sounds like a disaster, don't be misled – it all comes together perfectly.

ULTIMATE ROLLERCOASTER Channel 5 ★★★★

We love to see the most terrifying coasters in the world in action – so this programme, on tonight at 8pm, is a white-knuckle treat. Okay, it's not as good as riding the real thing, but it's thrilling stuff nonetheless. This series takes viewers on a hair-raising ride through the the history of rollercoaster development – from 1920s wooden rattlers to modern-day metal monsters. There's even a ride that loops 20 times in less than a minute! Grab your hats – it's going to be a wild ride!

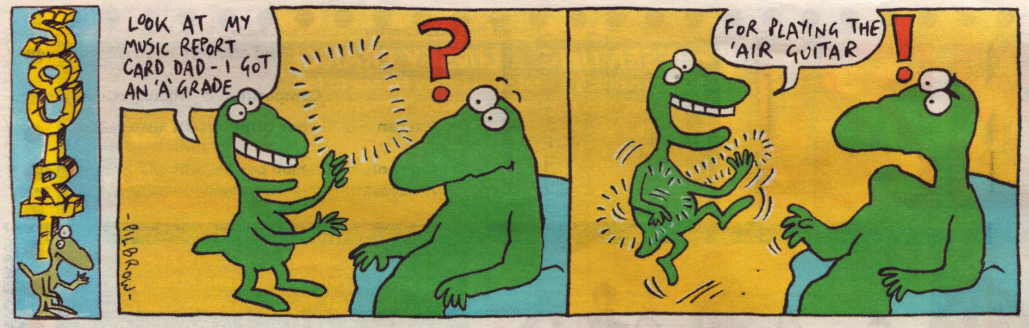
THE WORLD'S GREATEST R Kelly ★★★★

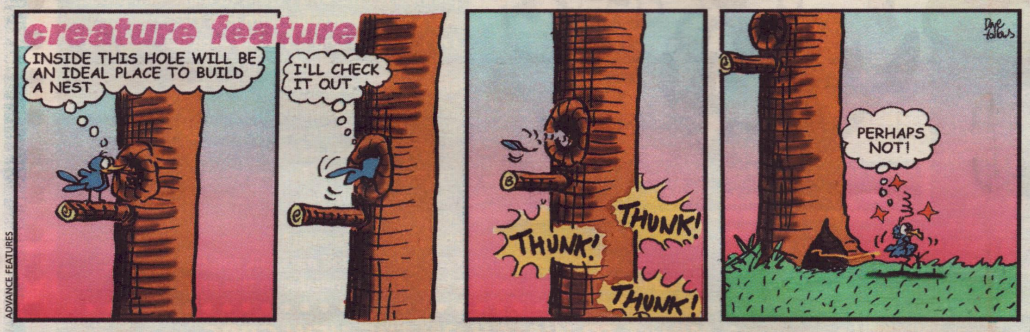


R Kelly is in danger of getting typecast, as he always has the knack of performing monumental ballads for American movies that sweep their way up the charts. But then again, nobody does it better, and The World's Greatest – from the new Ali film – is even tipped for an Oscar nomination. You probably already know what to expect from this song, R starts the whole thing off modestly, then the orchestra comes in, the chorus builds and eventually a huge choir starts crooning away to create a classic crescendo. Knockout!

PICTURES ©BBC CHANNEL 5

Buzz! is back with a bang next week

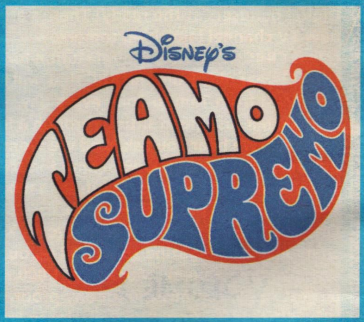




ADVANCE FEATURES

NEXT WEEK

★ ★ ★ ★ ★



PICTURE ©DISNEY

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

With a biff, bosh, bash – Funday introduces you to the 1960s-style crime-fighting heroics of Teamo Supremo

Mis-Teeq make it a dream come true for one viewer of Nickelodeon's Reach For The Stars

It's a big frothy coffee! We report on the attempt to make the world's largest cappuccino

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

f-mail

Send your letters, cartoons, jokes and drawings to: The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU7 7GX Send your e-mail to: funday.times@sunday-times.co.uk

CHILL OUT

Ice Age is the cool new computer-animated movie, out on March 22, which follows four furry friends, including a mammoth and a giant sloth, on an epic adventure.
The Fabulous Bakin' Boys [FBB], who make the Cool Blue Ice Age Cup Cakes, are giving away a load of cool booty to celebrate the movie's release.
The writer of the star f-mail will receive a mini-fridge, stuffed full of film merchandise, including a limited-edition Ice Age bag, watch, pen, jigsaw and scribble pad and a load of FBB cakes.
The other f-mailers will receive a goody bag packed full of film merchandise.

STAR

Dear f-mail,
When I was younger, I used to have horrific nightmares about an evil monster. Here is a poem about him!

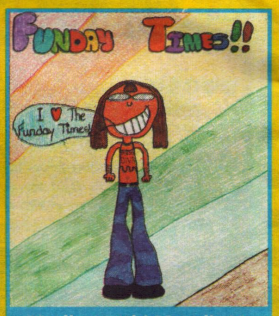
Beside the crashing waves,
Beneath the towering cliff.
There lies a dreaded creature,
They say he's just a myth!

But now you know the secret,
Of what is in the cave.
There's just one thing to tell you,
He's the evil emperor's slave!

His slimy green teeth crunch on bone,
So don't go near the cave alone.
The creature's skin is luminous white,
It gleams all day and glows all night.

Before you reveal what I have said,
You must make sure the emperor's dead.
To release the monster from his curse,
You must repeat this magic verse.

Sam Desbruslais, 11, Peterborough



Madhumathi Murali, 11, Little Chalfont

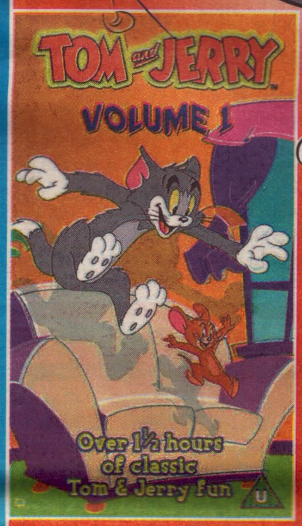
FUNDAY

WIN IT!

COMPETITION ADDRESS Send answers to all competitions to us at: The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU95 1AY. Competition deadline: February 20

You can e-mail your competition answers to: funday.comps@sunday-times.co.uk
Sorry, but only one e-mail per entrant will be accepted.

CHASE ACE

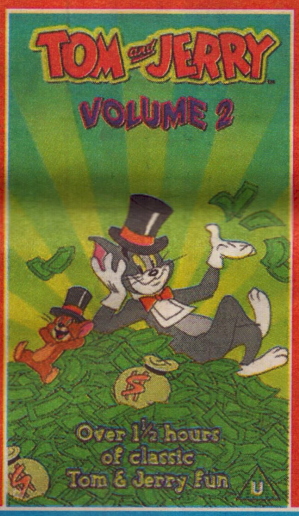


Tom and Jerry have been playing cat-and-mouse for an amazing 60 years and, luckily for us, there's more to come! The old-timers are back with some hilarious cartoon capers in Tom and Jerry: Volumes 1 & 2 – released on Warner Home Video tomorrow.

Each tape contains more than 90 minutes of cartoon fun and includes the earliest Tom and Jerry cartoons by Fred Quimby. Fred is a Hollywood legend and he created the classic Tom and Jerry episodes.

Fred won seven Academy Awards for various shorts, starring the mischievous pair, and received a number of nominations for his animation.

What a man!

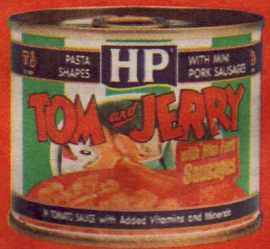


Each tape contains 11 episodes. And, as you'd expect, the well-loved duo are at their best with their high-octane chases as Tom gets into more trouble at the hands of the notoriously crafty Jerry.

Volume 1 includes Tom and Jerry's debut show, Puss Gets The Boot, along with other crackers, including Puss 'N' Toots and Dog Trouble. Volume 2 includes the classic The Million Dollar Cat.

To celebrate the launch of the new videos, Warner Home Video is joining forces with Funday to offer two lucky readers a top-of-the-range Compaq PC package, with animation software.

The winners will also receive the classic Tom and Jerry: Volumes 1 & 2 videos and a six-month supply of tasty HP Tom and Jerry Pasta Shapes.



To enter, tell us the name of the dog in the Tom and Jerry cartoons.

Mark your entry MOUSE TROUBLE and send it, with your name, age and address, to the competition address above.

Normal TNL competition rules apply to all Funday Times competitions

Sophie Wright, 12, Tewkesbury

Dear f-mail,
Why is it that we go to bed so late and then, when it comes to waking up, it's such a struggle just to open our eyes? Which makes us really grouchy! We all insist on staying up late, as if we don't like to go to sleep, and in the morning we seem to like sleep so much that we want to spend all day in bed!
David Hextall, 12, Bushey

What do you call a Frenchman wearing sandals?

Philippe Floppe!

Oliver Brincat, 10, Maidenhead

Kerris Gareson, 11, Dunstable

What do you call a donkey with three legs?

Wonkey!

What game do young zombies play?

Corpses and robbers!

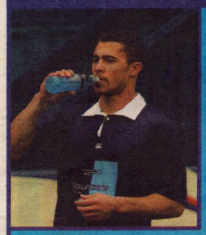
Scott Simmons, 11, Bexleyheath

Jake Harley, 12, Birmingham

Have your say about Hear'Say – tell f-mail what you think about the new line-up!

FUNDAY SPORT

JASON ROBINSON



It's a year since rugby star Jason Robinson first pulled on an England jersey. Funday Sport spoke to England's two-try hero against Scotland, at the launch of the new Powerade sports drink

Are you pleased with your first year in international rugby?
It's been a good year, there have been so many great things. To make my England debut as quickly as I did, the Lions tour in the summer and then coming back and playing well in the autumn series with England. It's been a year to remember and hopefully there will be a few more to come.

What are your memories of the Lions tour?
There are so many. Initially, meeting up with all the players from the other nations and bonding. Personally, to score four tries in the second game and then to be given my opportunity in the first Test and scoring in two and a half minutes was great. The support was unforgettable: to run out on to the pitch and see 20,000 Lions fans cheering us on made it a huge occasion. I'd never seen that before. On the pitch, we didn't quite achieve what we wanted but it was a fantastic experience.

What did you learn from last year's Six Nations?
For me, it was my first Six Nations Championship so there were lots of positive things I remember from it. The Ireland game didn't go our way but the other nations would have loved to have been in the position we were in. I'm more confident about playing at that level now, and the experience I gained was very exciting. I realised just how big the Six Nations are. It's made me more aware of everything surrounding it and I'm really looking forward to building from that.

Which is you best position – on the wing, as centre or as full-back?
I'm just happy to be playing, whether it's on the wing with the Lions, as full-back with England or at centre with Sale. Basically, I just want to have the ball in hand as much as possible. It doesn't matter where I play as long as I get in the side.

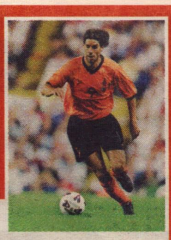
How do you see the Six Nations panning out this year?
We have got to take every game as it comes. Everyone wants to beat England and stop us from winning. It's no easy task. It was a very passionate encounter at Murrayfield and the Scots would have loved nothing more than beating the English. I expect it to be the same for the rest of the championship.

Which of your tries is a favourite?
It's always great to score, but it was certainly good to get that one in the first Lions Test in Australia. I enjoyed that one! My first try for England against Romania, that was special to me as well.

Watch England v Ireland this Saturday, on Sky Sports 2, from 2pm

SPORT NEWS

Funday picks out the best of this week's sporting action



Wednesday Holland v England, Amsterdam

England's World Cup warm-up starts with this tough friendly against Holland. The Dutch are the only team that have beaten England during Sven-Goran Eriksson's reign and, with talents such as Ruud van Nistelrooy, it's a shame they didn't make it to Japan and South Korea. Live on Sky Sports 2, from 7pm.

Wednesday First one-day international, New Zealand v England

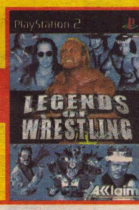
The Kiwis shouldn't be underestimated after their exceptional one-day performances against world champions Australia and South Africa recently. The form of fast bowler Shane Bond and allrounder Chris Cairns should be a real worry for Nasser's men. It could be a great series. Highlights of the game will be on Sky Sports 1.

LET'S RUMBLE!

Legends Of Wrestling is a brand-new shirt-ripping wrestling game for PlayStation 2, which stars the legendary Hulk Hogan. In the game, which is out this Friday, Hulk joins 40 of the greatest wrestlers for some slammin', head-lockin' action!

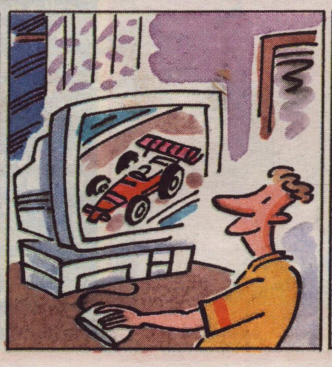
Players also get the chance to create their own wrestler – and no details are spared. You can even choose the colour of their Lycra shorts!

Acclaim Entertainment is giving two winners a PlayStation 2 console and a copy of the game each. Four runners-up will each receive a copy of the game.



To enter, tell us The Rock's real name.

Mark your entry RUMBLE and send it, with your name, age and address, to the competition address on page 11.



Try to catch Jason in action ... if you can!

PICTURES EPA/AFP/WILLIAM WEST PHIL COLE/DAVID CANNON/ALLSPORT

©Times Newspapers Ltd. 2002. Artwork and transparencies are submitted at the owner's risk and neither The Sunday Times nor its agents accept any liability for loss or damage. Published and printed and licensed for distribution in electronic and all other derivative forms by Times Newspapers Ltd. PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London E98 1ST, UK, tel 0207782 5000, and also printed at Kilting Road, Prescot, Merseyside L34 9HN, UK. Not to be sold separately from The Sunday Times